

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: RABIN PRESS CONFERENCE ON TALKS SUSPENSION
(FBIS 48, 49)

FOLLOWING IS FBIS ITEMS 48 AND 49:

QUOTE RABIN PRESS CONFERENCE ON TALKS SUSPENSION
TA231230 JERUSALEM DOMESTIC SERVICE IN HEBREW 1132
GMT 23 MAR 75 TA

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YIZHAQ RABIN'S STATEMENT AT
THE OPENING OF PRESS CONFERENCE AT BET AGRON IN
JERUSALEM --LIVE

(TEXT) LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THE TALKS ON PROGRESS
TOWARD PEACE STEP BY STEP BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL
THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED. AS IS KNOWN, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO
TRY TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE WITH EGYPT IN STAGES.
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TALKS WHICH HAVE TAKEN
PLACE IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND PARTICULARLY IN
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A MORE MORE INTENSIVE MANNER IN THE PAST 2 WEEKS,

ISRAEL HAS INTRODUCED TWO BASIC POSSIBILITIES TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE IN STAGES. THE BROADER POSSIBILITY WOULD

REQUIRE THAT EGYPT AGREE TO END THE STATE OF WAR AND IN RETURN ISRAEL WOULD EVACUATE THE AREA FROM THE PRESENT LINE EASTWARD ACROSS THE MITLA AND JIDDI PASSES AND THE CENTRAL MOUNTAIN RANGE WHICH BLOCKS THE ADVANCE ROUTES FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE SUEZ CANAL TO THE SINAI AREA, AND THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS AND SOUTHWARD.

WHEN EGYPT CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE READINESS, OR THE PROPOSAL, TO END THE STATE OF WAR, ISRAEL OFFERED A SECOND PROPOSAL PROVIDING THAT IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING WHICH DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN END TO THE STATE OF WAR, WHICH MAINTAINS THE STATE OF WAR BUT WITH THE IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FORCE, ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LINE IT IS HOLDING NOW TO THE CENTRAL PART OF THE PASSES AND RETURN THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS TO EGYPT. THIS PROPOSAL TOO, WAS REJECTED BY EGYPT.

IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS--AND AS IT IS KNOWN THE TALKS WERE NOT HELD FACE TO FACE BUT THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE DR. KISSINGER, WHO HAS CARRIED OUT HIS TASK FAITHFULLY--IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIVE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION REGARDING THE SECOND PROPOSAL.

WHAT WERE THE BASIC DIFFERENCES OF OPINION? THE FIRST POINT RELATES THE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT. EGYPT SAW IN IT A FURTHER MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ISRAEL INSISTED THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE OF A POLITICAL NATURE, SINCE AFTER ALL, WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLICY OF STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE? THAT EVERY STEP SHOULD HAVE NOT ONLY A MILITARY ELEMENT BUT ALSO INCLUDE AN ELEMENT THAT INDICATES PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. EGYPT HAS NOT SHOWN ANY READINESS TO ADVANCE IN ANY AREA RELATED TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN CONCRETE EXPRESSIONS, SUCH AS OPEN BRIDGES FOR

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TOURISTS, RESTRICTIONS--NOT ELIMINATION--OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA, THE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT, AND SO FORTH.

THE OTHER ASPECT WAS THAT IF THERE IS LOGIC IN THE AGREEMENT OF A STEP TOWARD PEACE, IT SHOULD ESTABLISH INITIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SIDES. THE EGYPTIANS ONLY AGREED TO A COMMITTEE ALONG THE LINES OF AN ARMISTICE COMMITTEE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CONNECTED WITH THE

UN FORCE TO SUPERVISE THE AREA TO BE DEFINED AS A
BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

ANOTHER ISSUE WAS THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT. AS IS
KNOWN, THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS NOT RESTRICTED IN
TIME. WE SOUGHT WAYS TO INSURE THAT IF THE PURPOSE IS
INDEED TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE, THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE
AGREEMENT IS TO BE VALID IS SIGNIFICANT. THE EGYPTIANS
AGREED TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE UN FORCES' MANDATE FROM
HALF A YEAR TO ONE YEAR, AND DEMANDED ITS RENEWAL EVERY
YEAR.

THE ADDITIONAL ISSUE IS CONNECTED WITH THE QUESTION OF
WHAT WOULD BE THE LINES IN RETURN FOR THE NEGLIGIBLE
POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO. IN EFFECT, EGYPT DEMANDED TWO
POSSIBILITIES: ONE WAS THAT THE TWO SIDES PULLBACK
EQUAL DISTANCES--ISRAEL EASTWARD FROM THE
EASTERN PART OF THE PASSES AND EGYPT WESTWARD FROM THE
WESTERN PART OF THE PASSES BY MORE OR LESS THE SAME
DISTANCE, WITH THE UN FORCES IN THE MIDDLE. THAT IS
TO SAY, TOTAL ISRAELI EVACUATION OF ALL THE AREA OF THE
PASSES, THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS, AND SOUTHWARD UP
TO AT-TUR, AND TURNING THE ENTIRE AREA FROM SUEZ CITY
TO AT-TUR ALONG THE GULF OF SUEZ OVER TO EGYPTIAN
CONTROL.

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IN WHICH IN FACT EGYPTIAN
PROPOSALS INCLUDED ON THEIR PART A DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIAL
WITHDRAWAL AND THE POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO WAS ALMOST
NEGLIGIBLE, ISRAEL REGARDED THESE PROPOSALS NOT AS A
STEP TOWARD PEACE BUT ACTUALLY AN UNILATERAL ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL. THEREFORE, WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE EGYPTIAN
PROPOSALS, AND THE EGYPTIANS REJECTED THE ISRAEL
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PROPOSALS WHICH PROVIDED FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM HALF OF THE
AREA OF THE PASSES AND THE RETURN OF THE OILFIELDS IN
ABU RUDAYS TO EGYPT.

I PERSONALLY AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE SORRY FOR THAT.
WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS DIRECTION A PROSPECT FOR ADVANCING
TOWARD PEACE WITH THE PRINCIPAL STATE IN THE ARAB WORLD.
ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK EVERY WAY TO ADVANCE
TOWARD PEACE. ISRAEL WILL HONOR ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH
EGYPT AND SYRIA AND THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ON THE
JORDAN LINE AND ON THE LEBANESE BORDER AS LONG AS
THESE AGREEMENTS ARE MUTUALLY RESPECTED BETWEEN US AND
EACH ONE OF THE STATES WITH WHICH WE HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS.

I WANT TO END BY SAYING THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS
MADE AND WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO MAKE A GREAT
EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. THE U.S.

GOVERNMENT BY VIRTUE OF ITS POLICY IS A BIG POWER THAT
STRIVES FOR PEACE IN OUR REGION. ISRAEL HAS A SPECIAL
PLACE IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE U.S. PEOPLE, THE
U.S. CONGRESS, THE U.S. PRESIDENT, AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE. ON THIS OCCASION I WANT TO THANK THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT, THE U.S. PRESIDENT, AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THEIR GREAT HELP TO ISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE
YEARS, FOR THEIR UNTIRING EFFORTS TO EXPLORE EVERY
POSSIBLE WAY TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE. I HOPE AND
WISH FOR ALL OF US THAT WAYS AND A SUITABLE FRAMEWORK
WILL BE FOUND TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE, SINCE THIS IS THE
DESIRE OF ISRAEL--TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

END ALL. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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